

CLAIMS

1- A locking device (1) for a screw coupling comprising a first (2) and a second (4) components rotatable in relation to one another during screwing, the first component (2) comprising a first thread (8) and a rotating engagement formation (11) distant from the first thread (8), the locking device (1) being mounted on the second component (4) and comprising:

- a coupling component (42) for coupling with the engagement formation (11),
- a stop component (38) connected for common rotation with a body (18) carried by the second component (4),
- disconnectable coupling means (49, 51) between the coupling component (42) and the stop component (38), characterized in that the coupling means (49, 51) are of the type with a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing when a predetermined elastic resistance is overcome.

2- The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling means comprise axially pointing teeth (49, 51) formed on the coupling component (38) and on the stop component (42), which are urged towards one another by a spring (36) in the direction of teeth interpenetration.

3- The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the two components (38, 42) are axially movable in relation to the body (18) and are together urged by the spring (36) towards a stop (44) provided in the body (18) for the coupling component (42).

4- the device according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the coupling component (42) can be drawn back against a spring (36) and comprises a stop (47) for engagement of a shoulder (48) of the first

component (2) in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component (42) is able to cover the engagement formation (11).

5- The device according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the body (18) is formed as a cup enclosing the stop component (38) and partially the coupling component (42).

6- The device according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the stop component (38) and the coupling component (42) are mounted around a tube (32) of the second component (4), which is internally threaded (16) for screwing with the first component (2).

7- The device according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the body (18) can be fitted onto a second engagement formation (13) integral with the second component (4) and has its own engagement formation (25) which can be used in place of the second engagement formation (13) in order to carry out relative rotation of the two components (2, 4) by means of tools.

8- The device according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the body (18) is secured onto the second component (4) by snap-fit (24, 27).

9- The device according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the body (18) is secured onto the second component (4) by crimping (29).

10- The device according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the body (18) is produced in one piece with the second component (4).

11- The device according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized by being a single unit.

12- The device according to one of claims 1 to 11, characterized by being entirely mounted on the second component (4).

13- A pipe coupling comprising a pipe end-portion provided with an external thread and a nut which can be screwed on the external thread and rotatably mounted on another pipe end-portion, characterized in that said
5 coupling also comprises a locking device according to one of claims 1 to 12 for selectively locking against relative rotation the two components constituted by the nut and the end-portion provided with an external thread.

14- The coupling according to claim 13, characterized
10 in that the first component (2) and the other pipe end-end (3) are standard non-modified components.